

National Republican.

How Mr. Lincoln Endorsed the Negro.
BY SAMUEL WILKINSON.

In the third year of the war, William Johnson, a negro messenger in the Treasury Department, who added to his pay and his duties the emoluments and honor of shaving President Lincoln, went to Wm. J. Huntington, the cashier of the First National Bank in Washington, to borrow one hundred and fifty dollars on his note of hand. Mr. Huntington, who is as kind to the poor as he is rigid in adhering to the rules of good bank management, listened favorably to the financial proposition of William, and asked him what he wanted to do with the money. "To finish my little house," said he. "I have to require a responsible endorser; can you give me one?" "I reckon I kin," replied William, straightening himself up with solid dignity. "I kin give you Abram Linkon!" "Old he will do," said the cashier, who turned to the desk and drew two notes for seventy-five dollars each, payable respectively in sixty and ninety days. William got Mr. Lincoln's endorsements, and got his money.

When the first note fell due it was not paid, and Mr. Huntington, soon after, having business at the Treasury Department, sought for the colored defaulter to his big bank. William was not in his messenger's chair. Poor William was dead. The cashier, in the course of time, having occasion to do some business with Mr. Lincoln, took with him William's two promissory notes to pay. After concluding his interview with the President upon the matter principal in hand, he said, "Mr. Lincoln, the barber who used to shave you, I hear, is dead." "Oh yes," interrupted the President, with feeling; "William is gone. I bought a coffin for the poor fellow, and had to help his family." "Well, Mr. Lincoln," resumed the cashier, "I was going to say that I had in the bank two small notes of William's, endorsed by you, which I will now surrender to you." "No you don't," said Old Abe, with lively firmness, and uncurling himself upward in his arm-chair. "I endorsed the notes, and am bound to pay them; and it is your duty to make me pay them." "Yes," said the cashier; "but it has long been our custom to devote a portion of our profits to charitable objects; and this seems to be a most deserving one." Mr. Lincoln, however, stood firm on his obligation and his purpose to pay his endorsements. "Well, Mr. Lincoln, I will tell you how we can arrange this," finally said Mr. Huntington. "The loan to William was a joint one between you and the bank. You stand half the loss, and I will stand half. You pay one of the notes, and I will cancel the other." Old Abe flung his leg over the arm of his chair in that irresistibly funny way he frequently had of musing over a proposition. He thought awhile, the light playing all over his expressive face, then straightened up, his sweet, patient eyes full of laughter. "Mr. Huntington," said he, "that sounds fair, but it is insolent; you are going to get ahead of me; you are going to give me the smallest note to pay. There must be a fair divide over poor William. Reckon up the interest on both notes, and chop the whole right straight through the middle, so that my half shall be as big as yours. That's the way we will fix it."

And that is the way the grand man "fixed" the discharge of all his obligations—scrupulously exact, religiously honest, probably independent.

The cashier laughed, and, as he handed the notes to Mr. Lincoln, said, pointing to his broad shoulders upon their backs. "After this, Mr. President, you can never deny that you endorse the negro." "That's a fact," said Old Abe, laughingly; "but I don't intend to deny it." And doesn't the negro endorse him and his works? God bless his memory!—N. Y. Independent.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE,

Washington, D. C.

On the petition of Oliver F. Drake, of Boston, Massachusetts, praying for the extension of a patent granted to him on the 21st day of January, 1865, and reissued the 15th day of November, 1866, for an improvement in apparatus for reducing certain materials, for seven years from the expiration of said patent, which takes place on the 23d day of August, 1867.

It is ordered that the said petition be heard at the Patent Office on the 15th day of August next, at 12 o'clock, m. and all persons are summoned to appear and show cause, if any they have, why said petition ought not to be granted.

Persons opposing the extension required to file in the Patent Office their objections, specially set forth in writing, at least twenty days before the day of hearing; or testimony filed by either party, to be used at the said hearing, must be taken and transcribed in accordance with the rules of the office, which may be published on the rules of the office.

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